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AUTHOR Carneal, Ann; Bohning, Gerry
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ABSTRACT

Prompted by the fact that short and interesting materials suitable for reading aloud to secondary school students are difficult to find, a survey was conducted to compile a list of such materials for dissemination. The 260 respondents included secondary school teachers in all curriculum areas. Results indicated that half the respondents read newspaper articles to students, most frequently about topics related to students' lives (drinking and driving, careers, drugs) and school and community news. Thirty-two percent indicated using magazines for reading aloud, most often "Read" and "Action." Other magazines mentioned included "Time," "Reader's Digest," "Redbook," and "National Geographic." Respondents also listed selections for read alouds from books, short stories, poetry, and humor, and listed collections and anthologies that they found useful for reading aloud activities. (The list of collections and anthologies for reading aloud compiled from the survey answers is appended.) (HTH)

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SURVEY OF WHAT SECONDARY TEACHERS READ ALOUD TO STUDENTS

Ann Carneal
Gerry Bohning

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SURVEY OF WHAT SECONDARY TEACHERS READ-ALOUD TO STUDENTS

Florida Secondary Reading Council (Ann Carneal)
and
Florida Organization of Teacher Educators in Reading (Gerry Bohning)

Abstract

Reading aloud to secondary students adds to the effectiveness of the secondary curriculum. Short and interesting materials suitable for read-alouds are difficult for a teacher to find at the secondary level. This project used a questionnaire to collect read-aloud information from secondary teachers. A list of materials suitable for reading aloud at the secondary level was compiled from the completed questionnaires.

INTRODUCTION

Few tasks are as rewarding at the secondary level as reading aloud to students. Students, regardless of their age, enjoy listening to a teacher read aloud--captivating newspaper articles, exciting text segments, amusing short stories, interesting biographical sketches, appealing poetry, dramatic plays and informative bulletins. Reading aloud brings variety to class activities. It is a flexible teaching technique which intellectually and emotionally enriches the students' learning experiences.

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURES

Elementary teachers read aloud regularly to their students but by the time these students reach the secondary grades many teachers have stopped this personally and academically rewarding practice. Some secondary teachers feel that a student should read on his or her own. However, more often teachers do not read because they do not have any suitable listing for selecting read-alouds. Short and interesting materials suitable for reading aloud are difficult for a teacher to find at the secondary level. A list of read-aloud

materials would be valuable to the secondary teachers who already read aloud to extend their sources as well as aid those who might want to develop the practice. The Florida Secondary Reading Council and the Florida Organization of Teacher Educators in Reading planned a cooperative project to compile and disseminate a list of suitable materials for teacher read-alouds at the secondary level. A questionnaire was distributed to members of both Councils through their May, 1984 newsletters. Members were requested to report materials which they have found suitable for reading aloud. Members were also asked to distribute the questionaire to other teachers. Respondents included secondary teachers in all areas of the curriculum. Two hundred sixty (260) questionnaires were returned. A list of read-alouds at the secondary level was compiled from the completed questionnaires.

PROJECT RESULTS

What do secondary teachers read to their students?

Fifty-two percent (52%) of the responding secondary teachers reported reading newspaper articles to students. The most frequently listed newspaper topics for read-alouds were those which related directly to the students' lives, such as drinking and driving, careers, drugs, legislative decisions and teen polls. School and community news items were also selected for read-alouds; these included items which might influence or involve the students, such as dress codes, weather concerns, local trials and update information related to previous discussions. Teachers reported that they read human interest articles aloud, such as animal stories, Erma Bombeck, Ann Landers, sports, famous people trivia and a reporting of the unusual. Current events, politics, book reviews and editorials were also selected as

read-alouds to students.

Thirty-two percent (32%) of the responding teachers used magazines for read-alouds. Teachers reported reading aloud excerpts which were either of teen interest or were subject related for current discussions. The most frequently listed magazines used for read-alouds were Read and Action. Teachers read from other magazines such as Reader's Digest, Time, Newsweek, World, People, National Geographic, Voice, Current Events, Boys' Life, Parade, News for You and Redbook.

Secondary teachers listed selections for read-alouds related to books, short stories, poetry, humor and gave collections and anthologies which they found useful for read-aloud excerpts. This listing is at the end of this article as Secondary Teacher Read-Alouds.

IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHERS

Secondary teachers do read to their students for a number of positive reasons. The list of Secondary Teacher Read-Alouds can be used by teachers to supplement their own sources or to use as a basis for selection to begin the practice of reading aloud to students.

Reading aloud to secondary students deserves a place in the reading curriculum. The value of reading aloud was ably summarized by two of the responding secondary teachers: "I have found that the students' attitude toward me and our relationship improves with reading aloud," and "I remember my teachers reading to us in class. It was rewarding and inspiring and restful."

References

Early, M. & Sawyer, D. (1984) Reading in Grades 5 to 12. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Publishers.

Ecroyd, D.H. & Wagner, H.S. (1979) Communicate Through Oral Reading. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co.

Trelease, Jim (1982) The Read-Aloud Handbook. New York: Penguin Books.

SECONDARY TEACHER READ-ALOUDS

COLLECTIONS FOR READ-ALOUD

Aurant, Paul. Paul Harvey's the Rest of the Story and More of Paul Harvey's the Rest of the Story. (Bantam)

Bantam Books Anthologies
- 50 Great American Short Stories. (by Milton Crane, Ed.)
- 50 Great Ghost Stories. (by John Canning, Ed.)
- 50 Great Horror Stories. (by John Canning, Ed.)
- 50 Great Short Stories. (by Milton Crane, Ed.)
- 75 Short Masterpieces. (by Roger Goodman, Ed.)
- The World's Best Short Stories. (by Roger Goodman, Ed.)

Cerf, Bennett (Ed.) Great Modern Short Stories and Famous Ghost Stories. (Random House)

Globe Book Company Open-Ended Stories and Open-Ended Plays (by Velder & Cohen)

Hamilton, Edith. Mythology. (Little)

Hipple, Theodore. Stories from Around the World. (Allyn)

Hughes, Langston. (Ed.) The Best Short Stories by Negro Writers (Little) and The Langston Hughes Reader (Braziller)

Jamestown Publishers
- Disasters! (Dan Dramer)
- Topics for the Restless. (Skillbook)
- Best-Selling Chapters. (by Raymond Harris, Ed.)
- Best Short Stories. (by Raymond Harris, Ed.)
- Jamestown Classics. (by Walter Paul & Raymond Harris)

Random House/Reader's Digest
- Top Picks Program (Comedy, Science Fiction, Sports, World of Work, Adventure, Mystery, Close Ties, Strange Stories)

Reader's Digest, (Compiled by)
- The American Spirit
- Animals Can Be Almost Human
- Animals You Will Never Forget
- Drama in Real Life
- Great Lives--Great Deeds
- Unforgettable Characters

Scholastic Book Services
- Two-Minute Mysteries, More Two-Minute Mysteries, Still More Two-Minute Mysteries. (by Donald Sobol)

Strang, Ruth. (Ed.) Teen-Age Tales. (D. C. Heath)

Warner Books
- The Complete Unabridged Super Trivia Encyclopedia (by Fred Worth)

FOR POETRY READ-ALOUDS

Bradbury, Ray. The Complete Poems of Ray Bradbury. (Ballantine)

Dunning, Stephen (Ed.) Reflections on a Gift of Watermellon Pickle and Other Modern Verse. (Lothrop)

Ernest, P. Edward. The Family Album of Favorite Poems. (Putnam Publishing Group)

Felleman, Hazel (Ed.) The Best Loved Poems of the American People. (Doubleday)

Guest, Edgar. Collected Verse Edgar A. Guest. (Contemporary Books)

Hopkins, Lee B. Faces and Places--Poems for You and Potato Chips and a Slice of the Moon--Poems You'll Like. (Scholastic)

Hughes, Langston. Selected Poems of Langston Hughes. (Random House)

Janeczko, Paul. Don't Forget to Fly and Postcard Poems: A Collection of Poetry for Sharing. (Bradbury Pr.)

Levy, Wilbert. Poems, American Themes. (AMSCO School Publications)

Perrine, Laurence. Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry. (Harcourt)

Petty, Jo. (Compiled by) Apples of Gold. (Gibson)

Randall, Dudley. The Black Poets. (Bantam)

Thayer, Ernest. Casey at the Bat. (Dover)

Silverstein, Shel. The Light in the Attic and Where the Sidewalk Ends. (Harper & Row)

Untermeyer, Louis (Ed.) The Golden Treasury of Poetry. (Golden)

Favorite poets from literature/poetry anthologies were listed for read-alouds; these included Frost, Sandburg, Poe, Dickenson, Holmes, Longfellow, Whittier.

FOR HUMOROUS READ-ALOUDS

Aylward, Jim. You're Dumber in the Summer. (Avon)

Dahl, Roald. Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes. (Knopf)

O. Henry, Ransom of Red Chief. (Jamestown Classics, Jamestown Publishers)

McKenzie, E. C. Salted Peanuts. (New American Library)

Nash, Ogden. The Pocket Book of Ogden Nash. (Pocket Books)

Parker, Dorothy. The Portable Dorothy Parker. (Penguin)

Readers Digest Editors. Tests and Teasers. (Berkley Pub)

Ritter, Dian. (Compiled by) The Spice of Life. (Gibson)

Rooney, Andy. A Few Minutes with Andy Rooney and More by Andy Rooney. (Atheneum)

Thurber, James. Alarms and Diversions. (Harper & Row)

Other material for humorous read-alouds include selections from magazines, cartoons from newspapers and fun with language books as The King Who Rained by Fred Gwynn (Windmill Books).

BOOK CHAPTER/EXCERPT READ-ALOUDS

Blume, Judy. Tiger Eyes. (Dell)

Bradbury, Ray. The Stories of Ray Bradbury. (Knopf)

Greene, Bette. Philip Hall Likes Me: I Reckon, Maybe. (Dial Books)

O. Henry. The Pocket Book of O. Henry. (Pocket Books)

Hinton, S.E. The Outsiders (and others by Hinton). (Dell)

Kirkwood, James. Good Times, Bad Times. (Fawcett)

McCaffrey, Ann. The White Dragon. (Ballantine)

Rawls, Wilson. Where the Red Fern Grows. (Bantam)

Saroyan, William. Saroyan Special. (Ayer Co)

Other suggestions for book/short story read-alouds include excerpts from Guinness Book of Records, the Newbery Award Books, primary sources as documents, low vocabulary versions of the classics, reading kit story cards. Read-alouds from classic and contemporary authors were also suggested.

The Florida Secondary Reading Council and the Florida Organization of Teacher Educators express appreciation to the secondary teachers who shared their read-alouds for this list. Thank you.

Gerry Bohning
Ann Carneal
School of Education
Barry University
Miami, Florida 33161